

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEAE-00 L-03 AID-05 CU-02 FS-01  
ABF-01 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07  
EPA-01 HEW-04 HUD-01 INR-07 INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-01  
NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 USIA-06 SMI-01 TRSE-00 /065 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0601

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DEPT PASS OES-DHEW/PHS/OIH-NSF-NBS-SMI-USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TGEN, USINJC, IN, US  
SUBJECT: JOINT SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: STATUS  
OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

REF: 76 STATE 253655

1. SUMMARY: IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH INDIAN SCIENCE  
OFFICIALS TO GO OVER THE DECEMBER 17 WASHINGTON MEETING  
WITH KEWAL SINGH ON THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION REVIEW, THE  
CHARGE POINTED OUT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISAPPOINTMENT ON  
THE PART OF U.S. AGENCIES AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE  
APPROVAL OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH THE NEW  
INDIAN HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE SET UP FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE  
APPRECIATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME MOVEMENT IN CERTAIN  
AREAS SUCH AS WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY, SCIENCE INFORMATION,  
COAL ENERGY, AND AGRICULTURE, HOWEVER, UNTIL THERE IS  
SOME MOVEMENT MADE ON PENDING PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE WE  
QUESTION WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT PROGRESS SINCE  
THE MEETING LAST JANUARY TO WARRANT ANOTHER MEETING IN MARCH.  
THE INDIANS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS, INDICATING  
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THAT MOST PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED AT THE MEETING LAST  
JANUARY ARE BEING COVERED AND EVENTUALLY PROJECTS WILL EMERGE  
IN THESE NEW FIELDS. IT IS THEIR OPINION THAT MUCH NEEDS TO  
BE DONE BY U.S. AGENCIES IN THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF  
PROPOSALS. THE INDIANS ALSO FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR  
SOLID PROGRESS TO BE MADE IN ALL FIELDS IDENTIFIED BY THE  
JOINT SUB-COMMISSION. IF THIS TAKES A LITTLE MORE TIME THEY

WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION MEETING. THEY WILL ALSO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO MOVE THE PENDING PROJECTS IN HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE BUT THEY WERE NOT ENCOURAGING ON THE BACKLOG OF RESEARCH PROJECTS BEING HELD BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION THAT HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. THEY INDICATED THAT THIS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SUBCOMMISSION. JUDGING FROM THIS AND PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH INDIAN SCIENCE OFFICIALS THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONTINUING DESIRE BY THE INDIANS TO CHANGE THE FOCUS OF RESEARCH COOPERATION TO PRIORITY AREAS THAT CONFORM WITH THEIR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES. THEY SEEM TO BE MOVING TOWARD A NEW TYPE OF COLLABORATION ON PRIORITY PROJECTS EARMARKED BY THE SUBCOMMISSION AND FUNDED BY BOTH SIDES EQUALLY. THE RESULTS OF THIS IS THE RELUCTANCE TO APPROVE PENDING JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS ENTIRELY SUPPORTED BY U.S. SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY/(SEC) RUPEES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY SCICOUNS AND SCIENCE ATTACHE, MET JANUARY 11 WITH DR. B. D. NAG CHAUDHURI, INDIAN CO-CHAIRMAN SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR. A. RAMACHANDRAN, SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST), AND DR. DESHPANDE, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS - DOST, TO GO OVER JOING COMMISSION REVIEW IN S&T AREA WHICH TOOK PLACE DECEMBER 17, WASHINGTON MEETING WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH (REFTEL). CHARGE INDICATED THAT HERE WAS A WEARINESS ON THE PART OF U.S. SCIENCE AGENCIES BECAUSE OF LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROVAL OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH THE INDIAN MACHINERY SET UP FOR THIS PURPOSE. U.S. SCIENCE AGENCIES ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN DOING RESEARCH. THEY HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED SINCE THE NEW HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED PRIMARILY FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ONLY ONE PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED (A CONTINUATION) IN THE PAST YEAR BY THE INDIAN HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE WHICH HAS ONLY MET ON ONE OCCASION. THERE HAS BEEN VERY GOOD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDIAN COUNTER-PARTS IN SOME AREAS SUCH AS THE WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI, THE SCIENCE INFORMATION MEETING IN WASHINGTON, THE PROPOSED COAL ENERGY MEETING IN THE U.S., AND THE PROPOSED INDIAN AGRICULTURE TEAM VISIT TO THE U.S. ALL OF THESE OF COURSE ARE IMPORTANT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EVENTUAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THE TRADITIONAL RUPEE SUPPORTED PROJECTS ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT ARE NOW IN THE PIPELINE AND J.S. SUPPORT FOR JOINT RESEARCH WILL COME PRIMARILY FROM RUPEES SINCE THESE ARE THE ONLY APPROPRIATIONS TO U.S. AGENCIES FOR JOINT RESEARCH IN INDIA. OF COURSE,

THERE WILL ALSO BE U.S. INVOLVEMENT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PERSONAL SCIENTIFIC INPUT. THE CHARGE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE CERTAINLY ARE NOT TRYING TO SUGGEST TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HOW TO RUN THEIR SCIENTIFIC BUSINESS; BUT ONLY WISHED THE GOI TO KNOW HOW THE WASHINGTON AGENCIES WHICH MUST FUND JOINT RESEARCH FEEL AT THIS TIME ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF U.S.-INDIAN RESEARCH PROJECTS. THE U.S. AGENCIES QUESTION WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT PROGRESS MADE SINCE LAST JANUARY IN SOLID PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY THE APPROVAL OF PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE, TO WARRANT A MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMISSION THIS COME MARCH.

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEAE-00 L-03 AID-05 CU-02 FS-01  
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NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 USIA-06 SMI-01 TRSE-00 /065 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0602

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DEPT PASS OES-DHEW/PHS/OIH-NSF-NBS-SMI-USDA

2. IN RESPONSE, DR. NAG CHAUDHURI INDICATED THAT, WITHIN THE FIVE OR SIX AREAS THAT WERE APPROVED BY THE SUBCOMMISSION LAST JANUARY AS PRIORITY FIELDS OF INTEREST, MOST HAVE BEEN COVERED OVER THE PAST YEAR BY THE SEVERAL MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS REFERRED TO ABOVE. FURTHERMORE FORMALIZATION OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS IN CERTAIN AREAS HAS BEGUN. HE INDICATED THAT A GREAT DEAL OF HOMEWORK MUST BE DONE BEFORE AN ACTUAL PROPOSAL IS DEVELOPED BY THE INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED AND MERGES AT THE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY LEVEL. HE SAID THERE MUST BE MUTUAL PUSH AND PULL BY BOTH SIDES BEFORE THESE PROJECTS MERGE AND, AS FAR AS DOST IS CONCERNED, A GREAT DEAL OF GROUNDWORK HAS TO BE DONE IN ENGINEERING THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN U.S. AND INDIAN INVESTIGATORS. DR. NAG CHAUDHURI MENTIONED SECONDLY THAT THERE IS CERTAINLY A RESOURCE CONSTRAINT ON THE PART OF INDIAN

AGENCIES THEMSELVES, LIKE U.S. AGENCIES, SINCE NO SPECIAL FUNDS ARE SET ASIDE IN AGENCY BUDGETS SPECIFICALLY FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S. CONSEQUENTLY, THESE FUNDS MUST BE GENERATED FROM ONGOING BUDGETS. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS NO ADDITIONALITY OF FUNDS FOR U.S. COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PER SE AND EVEN IN THE CASE OF SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE MUST SET ASIDE RUPEES FOR RESEARCH IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY WOULD BUDGET FOR RESEARCH IN THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES INVOLVED. NAG CHAUDHURI MADE REFERENCE TO THE PENDING PROJECTS WITH THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE AS OLD RESEARCH PROPOSALS PREPARED BEFORE THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

3. THE CHARGE AGREED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE NEW AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION FROM THE STANDPOINT OF MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS. HOWEVER, U.S. SCIENCE AGENCIES LOOK AT JOINT RESEARCH COOPERATION AS A CONTINUING PROCESS THAT CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM WHAT HAS GONE ON IN THE PAST. THE PENDING SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY PROJECTS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF U.S. AGENCY COOPERATION AND MANY OF THEM FALL INTO THE PRIORITY CATAGORIES.

IN REGARD TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS THE CHARGE MENTIONED THAT THIS WAS A PROBLEM ON BOTH SIDES. THE U.S. AGENCIES HAVE NO DOLLAR APPROPRIATIONS FOR RESEARCH IN INDIA AND MUST RELY PRIMARILY ON THEIR RUPEE ALLOCATIONS FOR THEIR PART OF THE SUPPORT OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT THE INPUT FROM U.S. SCIENTISTS VISITING INDIA HAS BEEN RATHER SUBSTANTIAL, PARTICULARLY DURING THE PAST YEAR AND THAT THIS IN EFFECT AMOUNTS TO AN EXTERNAL RESOURCE INPUT TO THE JOINT PROGRAM. FURTHERMORE THE DOLLAR SALARY COSTS FOR U.S. SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATING IN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS WAS BORNE EITHER BY THE SCIENTISTS' HOME INSTITUTION OR THE U.S. AGENCIES.

4. DR. NAG CHAUDHURI RESPONDED THAT CERTAINLY INDIA TREASURED THIS U.S. INPUT AND AGREED THAT THIS HAS BEEN A VERY SUBSTANTIAL PART OF U.S. CONTRIBUTION. HE FEELS THE REALY PROBLEM COMES WHEN DOLLAR FUNDS ARE NEEDED TO BUY THINGS SUCH AS EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, ETC. THAT ARE NEEDED FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS.

5. DR. RAMACHANDRAN REITERATED THAT RESEARCH PROPOSALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN MANY OF THE AREAS THAT WERE AGREED UPON BY THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WAS BUSY WITH THE TASK OF DEVELOPING PROJECT DRAFTS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS AGREED UPON LAST JANUARY. HE FEELS THAT THE U.S. SIDE MUST ALSO NOW GET BUSY WITH THEIR REVIEW OF THESE PROPOSALS. HE SAID THAT, AS FAR AS THE INDIAN SIDE IS CONCERNED, EVEN THOUGH THESE PROJECTS ARE BEING DEVELOPED UNDER THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION AUSPICES, THEY MUST ALSO HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE INDIAN AGENCY INVOLVED.

6. DR. DESHPANDE MENTIONED THAT AS FAR AS AGRICULTURE IS CONCERNED THERE WAS VERY RECENT PROGRESS IN THAT THE INDIAN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH COUNCIL HAS SENT A NOTICE TO ALL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SOLICITING JOINT PROPOSALS IN THE AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION. HE SAID THAT A NUMBER OF PROJECTS ARE NOW BEING FORMULATED BY THE VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES. HE INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE FUNDING CONSTRAINTS IT HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR INDIAN UNIVERSITY PEOPLE TO GET TOGETHER WITH THEIR U.S. COUNTERPARTS WHICH HAS IN MANY CASES STYMIED THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PROJECTS.

7. DR. NAG CHAUDHURI ALLOWED THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY WANT TO KEEP THE FLOW OF PEOPLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MOVING AND HE FEELS THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROGRESS BE MADE IN ALL OF THESE FIELDS IDENTIFIED AS PRIORITY AREAS. IF THIS TAKES A LITTLE MORE TIME, HE WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SUBCOMMISSION MEETING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS UNTIL SOME OF THESE THINGS THAT ARE NOW DEVELOPING GEL INTO SOLID PROPOSALS.

DR. NAG CHAUDHURI MADE A SPECIAL POINT THAT IN REGARD TO RESEARCH PROPOSALS IN THE PIPELINE HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCILS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO EXPEDITE THESE PROPOSALS. REFERRING TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH EMANATING FROM UNIVERSITIES NAG CHAUDHURI GAVE US NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENCOURAGEMENT. HE REMARKED THAT THE UNIVERSITIES HISTORICALLY HAD A METHOD OF DOING BUSINESS WITH THE U.S. THAT WAS INTERRUPTED IN 1972 AND SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN MOVING AHEAD WITH JOINT RESEARCH. HE FEELS ALSO THERE IS A JURISDICTIONAL PROBLEM INVOLVED IN THAT THERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SUBCOMMISSION AS WELL AS A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION. NAG CHAUDHURI FELT THAT PERHAPS SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS RELATED TO RESEARCH CONTROLLED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE FORUM OF THE EDUCATION & CULTURE SUBCOMMISSION.

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEAE-00 L-03 AID-05 CU-02 FS-01  
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R 141256Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
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DEPT PASS OES-DHEW/PHS/OIH-NSF-NBS-SMI-USDA

8. COMMENTS: THE INDIANS ARE APPARENTLY SATISFIED THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT MOST OF THE PRIORITY AREAS REFERRED TO AT THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION MEETING LAST JANUARY ARE BEING COVERED. NAG CHAUDHURI STILL DRAWS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RESEARCH PROPOSALS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE S&T SUBCOMMISSION AND PENDING SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY PROJECTS WHICH HE FEELS ARE AN INDIVIDUAL MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER, HE DID MAKE A SPECIFIC POINT THAT HE WOULD CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPEDITE APPROVAL OF THESE PENDING PROPOSALS.

WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY INDICATED THAT THE SUBCOMMISSION HAS AN OVERALL INTEREST IN ALL JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND THAT THE U.S. SUPPORT TO JOINT RESEARCH WOULD PREDOMINANTLY COME FROM U.S.-OWNED RUPEES. ALSO, THAT WE VIEW JOINT RESEARCH AS A CONTINUING PROGRAM AND THERE IS NO SEPARATION BETWEEN OLD AND NEW PROJECTS, AND THAT THE FUNDING MECHANISMS WILL FUNDAMENTALLY BE THE SAME. WE ALSO CANNOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE IS NOW THE FOCAL POINT FOR ALL PROJECT APPROVAL WHETHER STIMULATED BY THE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION OR OTHERWISE.

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THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONTINUING DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE INDIANS TO CHANGE THE FOCUS OF RESEARCH COOPERATION TO PRIORITY AREAS THAT CONFORM WITH THEIR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES. IN ADDITION, THEY SEEM TO BE MOVING TOWARD A NEW TYPE OF COLLABORATION ON PRIORITY PROJECTS EARMARKED BY THE SUBCOMMISSION AND FUNDED BY BOTH SIDES EQUALLY. THE APPARENT RESULT OF THIS IS THE RELUCTANCE TO APPROVE PENDING JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS ENTIRELY SUPPORTED BY U.S.-OWNED RUPEES. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT OF EQUAL PARTICIPATION BOTH FINANCIALLY AND TECHNICALLY SO LONG AS U.S. SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRIMARILY FROM U.S.-OWNED RUPEES AND THERE ALSO CONTINUES TO BE AN OPENING FOR TRADITIONAL SFC PROJECTS TO BE DEVELOPED IN AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE MODALITIES OF COOPERATION SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT JOINT SUBCOMMISSION MEETING, SPECIFICALLY THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS AS WELL AS REVIEW AND APPROVAL MECHANISMS.

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**TAGS:** TGEN, IN, US, USINJC, (SINGH, KEWAL)  
**To:** STATE  
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